



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Nebraska Field Office
203 West Second Street
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

May 25, 2005

Christa Dean
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20403-0001

**RE: Control Number 6-5-I-112, BNSF Railway Company – Abandonment
between Aurora, Nebraska and Central City, Nebraska (STB Docket No.
AB-6 [Sub-No. 408X])**

Dear Ms. Dean:

This responds to your letter, received May 17, 2005, addressing comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and other government agencies on a Burlington Northern Santa Fe railway abandonment between Aurora, Nebraska and Central City, Nebraska. The Service has determined that the proposed conservation measures will avoid impacts to nesting least terns and the piping plovers, therefore, the Service concurs that the proposed project will not adversely affect federally listed threatened and endangered species, or their designated critical habitat. Please change the Service contact from Mr. Wally Jobman to Mr. Jeff Runge at (308)382-6468, extension 22. Reinitiation of consultation with the Service will be required under section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended if the proposed action is changed in any way.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Runge at the above number.

Sincerely,

Steve Anschutz
Nebraska Field Supervisor

cc: NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Troy Ramig)